

111. Rules and Regulations for Participation in the Deer Management Assistance Program

A. The following rules and regulations shall govern the Deer Management Assistance Program

1. Application Procedure

a. Application for enrollment of a new cooperator in the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) must be submitted to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries by August 1. Application for the renewal enrollment of an active cooperator must be submitted to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries annually by September 1.

b. Each application for a new cooperator must be accompanied by a legal description of lands to be enrolled and a map of the property. Renewal applications must be accompanied by a legal description and map only if the boundaries of the enrolled property have changed from records on file from the previous hunting season. This information will remain on file in the appropriate regional office. The applicant must have under lease or otherwise control a minimum of 500 acres of contiguous deer habitat of which up to 250 acres may be agricultural lands, provided the remainder is in forest and/or marsh. Private lands within Wildlife Management Area boundaries shall be enrolled in DMAP regardless of size.

c. Each cooperator will be assessed a \$25 enrollment fee and \$.05/acre for participation in the program. DMAP fees must be paid by invoice to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Fiscal Section prior to September 15.

d. An agreement must be completed and signed by the official representative of the cooperator and submitted to the appropriate regional wildlife office for his approval. This agreement must be completed and signed annually.

e. Boundaries of lands enrolled in DMAP shall be clearly marked and posted with DMAP signs in compliance with R.S. 56:110 and the provisions of R. S. 56:110 are only applicable to property enrolled in DMAP. DMAP signs shall be removed if the land is no longer

enrolled in DMAP. Rules and regulations for compliance with R. S. 56:110 are as follows:

i. The color of DMAP signs shall be orange. The words DMAP and Posted shall be printed on the sign in letters no less than 4" (four inches) in height. Signs may be constructed of any material and minimum size is 11 1/4" x 11 1/4".

ii. Signs will be placed at 1000 foot intervals around the entire boundary of the property and at every entry point onto the property.

f. By enrolling in the DMAP, cooperators agree to allow Department personnel access to their lands for management surveys, investigation of violations and other inspections deemed appropriate by the Department. The person listed on the DMAP application as the contact person will serve as the liaison between the DMAP Cooperator and the Department.

g. Each cooperator that enrolls in DMAP is strongly encouraged to provide keys or lock combinations annually to the Enforcement Division of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries for access to main entrances of the DMAP property. Provision of keys is voluntary; however, the cooperator's compliance will ensure that DMAP enrolled properties will be properly and regularly patrolled.

2. Tags

a. A fixed number of special tags will be provided by the Department to each cooperator in DMAP to affix to deer taken as authorized by the program. These tags shall be used only on DMAP lands for which the tags were issued.

b. All antlerless deer taken shall be tagged, including those taken during archery season, muzzleloader, and on either-sex days of gun season.

c. Each hunter must have a tag in his possession while hunting on DMAP land in order to harvest an antlerless deer. The tag shall be attached through the hock in such a manner that it cannot be removed before the deer is transported. The DMAP tag will remain with the deer so long as the deer is kept in the camp or field, is

in route to the domicile of its possessor, or until it has been stored at the domicile of its possessor, or divided at a cold storage facility and has become identifiable as food rather than as wild game. The DMAP number shall be recorded on the possession tag of the deer or any part of the animal when divided and properly tagged.

d. Antlerless deer harvest on property enrolled in DMAP does not count in the season bag limit for hunters.

e. All unused tags shall be returned by March 1 to the regional wildlife office which issued the tags.

3. Records

a. Cooperators are responsible for keeping accurate records on forms provided by the Department for all deer harvested on lands enrolled in the program. Mandatory information includes tag number, sex of deer, date of kill, name of person taking the deer, hunting license number (transaction number, authorization number, lifetime number or date of birth for under 16 and over 59 years of age) and biological data (age, weight, antler measurements, lactation) as deemed essential by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Deer Section. Biological data collection must meet quality standards established by the Deer Section. Documentation of mandatory information shall be kept daily by the Cooperator. Additional information may be requested depending on management goals of the cooperator.

b. Information on deer harvested shall be submitted by March 1 to the regional wildlife office handling the particular cooperator.

c. The Contact person shall provide this documentation of harvested deer to the Department upon request. Cooperators who do not have a field camp will be given 48 hours to provide this requested documentation.

B. Suspension and cancellation of DMAP Cooperators

1. Failure of the cooperator to follow these rules and regulations may result in suspension and cancellation of the program on those lands involved.

Failure to make a good faith attempt to follow harvest recommendations may also result in suspension and cancellation of the program.

a. Suspension of Cooperator from DMAP - Suspension of the Cooperator from DMAP, including forfeiture of unused tags, will occur immediately for any misuse of tags, failure to tag any antlerless deer, or failure to submit records to the Department for examination in a timely fashion. Suspension of the Cooperator, including forfeiture of unused tags, may also occur immediately if other DMAP rules or wildlife regulations are violated. Upon suspension of the Cooperator from DMAP, the Contact Person may request a Department of Wildlife and Fisheries hearing within 10 working days to appeal said suspension. Cooperation by the DMAP Cooperator with the investigation of the violation will be taken into account by the Department when considering cancellation of the program following a suspension for any of the above listed reasons. The Cooperator may be allowed to continue with the program on a probational status if, in the judgement of the Department, the facts relevant to a suspension do not warrant cancellation.

b. Cancellation of cooperator from DMAP - Cancellation of a cooperator from DMAP may occur following a guilty plea or conviction for a DMAP rule or regulation violation by any individual or member hunting on the land enrolled in DMAP. The Cooperator may not be allowed to participate in DMAP for one year following the cancellation for such guilty pleas or conviction. Upon cancellation of the Cooperator from DMAP, the Contact Person may request an administrative hearing within 10 working days to appeal said cancellation.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:115.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 17:204 (February 1991), amended LR 25:1656 (September 1999), LR 26:2011 (September 2000), LR 30:2496 (November 2004).